

**SUICIDE PREVENTION TASK FORCE
MENTAL HEALTH DIVISION
WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

To Establish and Promote SUICIDE PREVENTION Community Coalitions
and Community Based SUICIDE PREVENTION Activities

I. INTRODUCTION

Organized by the Wyoming Department of Health, the Suicide Prevention Task Force is a multi-disciplinary coalition whose members represent both private and public sectors, families, and individuals touched by suicide. The mission of the Task Force is to improve the health and well being of Wyoming citizens over the life span by reducing suicide and its impact on individuals, families, and communities. Activities of the Task Force have included conducting research on risk factors related to suicide, surveying suicide prevention activities in all Wyoming school districts, planning and organizing two statewide conferences on suicide, creating and printing resource materials, developing and providing training, and drafting the State of Wyoming Suicide Prevention Plan, "Saving One Life" (attached). Implementation of the Plan relies heavily upon the development of community suicide prevention activities.

II. PURPOSE

The Suicide Prevention Task Force, through the Mental Health Division, has made funds available through this Request for Applications (RFA) to support the development of community based suicide prevention coalitions. Funding may be used by community coalitions for suicide data evaluation, assessment of suicide prevention needs of the community, and planning and support of suicide prevention activities. Based on assessed community needs, activities should be in accordance with the philosophy, goals, and objectives of "Saving One Life", the State's Suicide Prevention Plan developed by the Suicide Prevention Task Force (attachment A). Grants under this RFA are not intended to be the sole source of funding for community prevention activities.

Members of the Suicide Prevention Task Force and the State Suicide Prevention Specialist within the Mental Health Division are available upon request to assist communities both in the development of their Request for Application and in the implementation of funded activities. Technical assistance will be available throughout the grant period.

III. ELIGIBILITY

Community members who would like to establish a community suicide prevention coalition, or established community suicide prevention coalitions either free standing or components of larger planning groups, are eligible to apply for funding. Applications must

be submitted through the local community mental health center. The mental health center is to be the business agent for the grant. Expenditures under the grant are to be directed by the steering committee or community coalition. Communities may submit only one application for funding. Applications that address regional needs for suicide prevention activities are encouraged.

IV. FUNDING

Funding is available in an amount up to \$10,000 per single county applicant or \$15,000 for multi-county or regional approaches. Costs that are unallowable under the grant are: staff salaries and benefits, utilities, rent, vehicles and treatment services. The actual grant awarded to successful applicants is dependent upon the number of approved applications received. Preference in funding will be given to existing suicide prevention coalitions. Funding for suicide prevention activities is dependent upon continuing support from the Wyoming Legislature and the performance of grantees during the contract period.

V. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A. Background

Wyoming's rate of suicide ranks first in the nation. During 2004, 109 of our fellow citizens died by suicide. About 90% of all people who die by suicide suffer from a major mental illness and/or a substance abuse disorder. Although suicide involves multiple individual, social, and environmental factors, it is rarely random or inevitable. Through education, training, intervention, and treatment we can reduce the number of suicides within our state. Suicide is preventable in most cases.

Responsibility for implementation of local suicide prevention activities must reside in communities, through existing or new community coalitions or other local partnerships. Building on the unique strengths and resources of each community, local coalitions are best equipped to address suicide within the public health model.

Suicide prevention requires the engagement of multiple systems towards a common goal. Activities must be long term, comprehensive, and culturally appropriate.

B. Goals

Based on the Suicide Prevention Plan, the goals of funding through this RFA are to establish or maintain community based coalitions to assess suicide prevention needs, to plan, organize and implement comprehensive suicide prevention activities, and to conduct evaluations of completed activities.

V. GRANT REQUIREMENTS

A. Constituency of Community Coalitions

Community coalitions must include representation from a broad base of community representatives. Mental health, schools, senior citizens network, law enforcement, clergy, public health nursing, survivors or family members of suicide victims, emergency responders, primary health care providers, and representation from targeted populations (for example, youth or elderly) are agencies that should be represented on a coalition. Recommended membership includes the county coroner, community leaders, substance abuse treatment or prevention providers, domestic violence representation, private mental health treatment providers, corrections, academia and child and adult abuse prevention advocates. Coalitions should reflect community composition.

B. Planning and Evaluation of Activities

Coalitions that have not previously completed a Suicide Prevention Community Assessment Tool (Attachment B) must commit to completing such tool during the course of the contract period. The tool can be completed in sections. The tool was recommended for our use by the Suicide Prevention Resource Center to allow communities to complete an assessment of local needs and to provide a basis for evaluation of activities conducted. Those coalitions that previously have completed and submitted a Suicide Prevention Community Assessment Tool should update their previous responses, as appropriate, with current data.

The evaluation model presented as Attachment C will be the format on which coalitions will be asked to evaluate their activities. The model will provide communities and the State Task Force with a uniform method of assessing goals, objectives, and outcomes and will act as a justification for increased funding. Coalitions are strongly encouraged to utilize the model throughout the grant period, for activities proposed in the grant application. Technical assistance on completion of the model is available from the State Suicide Prevention Specialist or members of the Suicide Prevention Task Force.

C. Proposed Activities

Proposed activities must include completion of the Suicide Prevention Community Assessment tool during the course of the grant period by the members of the coalition. It is recommended that the tool be completed in sections, (e.g., Section A completed by November, Section B completed by January, etc) A commitment on the part of the coalition to utilize the attached evaluation model as the means of assessing progress towards suicide prevention goals must also be included in the description of proposed activities. Those communities that previously have

completed the tool are exempt from this requirement.

Comprehensive primary and secondary prevention approaches to suicide prevention are included in the Suicide Prevention Plan. Proposed activities other than those included in the Plan must adhere to the public health model and address the risk and protective factors associated with suicide (Attachment D). The following program descriptors are common to successful primary prevention programs and are recognized by the National Mental Health Association.

- They are theory driven, based on science
- They are tested and proven effective
- They go beyond building awareness and providing information, and require a long term commitment in order to influence behaviors or build skills
- They are holistic and focus on reducing risk factors as well as building healthy communities
- They are replicable in other settings

Activities that target specific populations (i.e., youth, older adults, middle-aged men, Native Americans, gay and lesbian individuals, etc) are strongly encouraged. Intervention activities must include a referral for mental health care. Applications that propose only information dissemination and/or education will not qualify for funding. Any agency, organization, association or entity may provide activities under the oversight of the community coalition.

VI. APPLICATION PROCEDURES

A. Receipt and Review Schedule

1. Applications must be submitted by August 15, 2005 to be considered for funding. Four copies of the application should be mailed to:

Keith Hotle
Suicide Prevention Specialist
Mental Health Division
6101 Yellowstone Road, Room 259B
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009
2. Applications will be reviewed by the Suicide Prevention Task Force in August 2005. Successful applicants will be notified immediately after a funding decision is made. The contract period is July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006.
3. Preference for funding will be given to established suicide prevention

coalitions and communities within counties that have a high rate of suicide.

4. Technical assistance is available to applicants from the State Suicide Prevention Specialist and from members of the Suicide Prevention Task Force.

B. Application Requirements

1. Applications must include:
 - a. The name of the mental health center submitting the application.
 - b. The name, address and phone number of the person to be contacted regarding the application.
 - c. The names, addresses, phone numbers, and representation of community coalition members. If a coalition has yet to be formed, the names and contact information of at least five individuals who have agreed to participate in the establishment of a community coalition and carry out coalition activities must be included.
 - d. A description of proposed coalition activities to include: completion of the Suicide Prevention Community Assessment Tool (Attachment B) and a description of the proposed activities of the coalition and/or services to be provided on behalf of the coalition. Proposed activities must be submitted using the format in Attachment E.
 - e. An itemized budget, using the format in Attachment F.
 - f. A description of identified technical assistance needs.

Questions regarding the application requirements should be directed to Keith Hotle, Suicide Prevention Specialist, at (307) 777-3318, or email at khotle@state.wy.us.